

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP00/08435 filed August 30, 2000**

--9. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the composition further comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -carotene, astaxanthin,  $\alpha$ -cryptoxanthin,  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin, zeaxanthin, phytoene, phytofluene,  $\gamma$ -carotene and neurosporin.--

--10. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the  $\beta$ -carotene, the lutein and the lycopene in a ratio by weight of from 1:0.5:0.5 to 1:1.0:1.0.--

--11. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the composition is dispersed in an edible oil.--

--12. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the  $\beta$ -carotene, the lutein and the lycopene are each present in an amount of from 1 to 40 mg.--

--13. (New) A method of inhibiting the aging of human skin, the method comprising:

- (i) providing a composition comprising (a)  $\beta$ -carotene, (b) lutein and (c) lycopene, in a ratio by weight (a):(b):(c) of from 1:0.5:0.5 to 1:1.5:1.5; and
- (ii) orally administering the composition to a human.--

--14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the composition further comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -carotene, astaxanthin,  $\alpha$ -cryptoxanthin,  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin, zeaxanthin, phytoene, phytofluene,  $\gamma$ -carotene and neurosporin.--

--15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the  $\beta$ -carotene, the lutein and the lycopene in a ratio by weight of from 1:0.5:0.5 to 1:1.0:1.0.--

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cont.

--16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the composition is  
dispersed in an edible oil.--

--17. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the  $\beta$ -carotene, the  
lutein and the lycopene are each present in an amount of from 1 to 40 mg.--

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Please cancel claims 1-7, without prejudice.

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